

We will also be voting on Judge Kate Menendez's nomination to the District of Minnesota. Judge Menendez has served the District of Minnesota as a Federal magistrate judge since 2016. She was appointed to that role by the district's sitting Federal judges, a reflection of Judge Menendez's record, qualifications, and dedication to impartiality.

Before assuming the bench, Judge Menendez served for nearly two decades as a Federal public defender, gaining considerable trial and appellate experience. Importantly, she has demonstrated that she understands the difference between the role of an advocate and that of a judge. She received a unanimous rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association and has the strong support of Senators KLOBUCHAR and SMITH.

We will also consider the nomination of Judge Mary Katherine Dimke for the Eastern District of Washington. For nearly 6 years, Judge Dimke has served as a U.S. magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Washington, based in Yakima, WA. In this role, Judge Dimke has presided over hundreds of matters, including approximately 400 civil cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Dimke, a first-generation college graduate, spent her legal career as a Federal prosecutor. During this time, she prosecuted a wide range of crimes, with a particular focus on fraud and complex financial crimes. The ABA has unanimously rated Judge Dimke "well qualified" to serve as a district court judge, and she has the strong support of her home State Senators, Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL.

Finally, we have Judge Gabriel Sanchez, nominated to a California seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Sanchez is an experienced litigator and appellate jurist with a proven track record of impartial, evenhanded decision-making.

He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale and a master's degree from Cambridge University. After graduating, he clerked for Judge Richard A. Paez on the Ninth Circuit. Judge Sanchez worked as a civil litigator in private practice for 5 years before serving in the California State government, where he advised then-Governor Jerry Brown on litigation, legislation, appointments, and various policy measures, including criminal justice reform.

For example, he helped California develop and implement a response to a 2011 Supreme Court holding ordering the State to reduce its prison population. He served admirably to ensure California met its constitutional obligations while also prioritizing public safety. In 2018, Judge Sanchez was appointed to serve on the California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District. The court has appellate jurisdiction over virtually all final judgments and orders issued by 12 counties in California.

During his time on the bench, Judge Sanchez has filed or joined in nearly 500 opinions in cases almost evenly split between civil and criminal matters. So his judicial experience has been broad and varied. Judge Sanchez also has the strong support of his home State Senators—Senators FEINSTEIN and PADILLA—and was rated unanimously "well qualified" by the ABA. He is an exceptional nominee with impeccable credentials, and his evenhanded approach to justice will serve him well on the Ninth Circuit.

I urge all of my colleagues to support these outstanding judicial nominees. Every one of them has been rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. They will bring much-needed professional and demographic diversity to the bench. They will be impartial and evenhanded in the administration of justice. And they will always be faithful to the rule of law.

#### NOMINATION OF MARY KATHERINE DIMKE

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to confirm Judge Kit Dimke for a district court vacancy in the Eastern District of Washington.

To begin, I want to thank President Biden for nominating Judge Dimke for this position at my strong recommendation. At the start of this Congress, there were six Federal district court vacancies in Washington State—six. More than half the Federal bench in Washington State was empty. Those vacancies put a huge strain on our Federal courts, but thanks to the quick work of this Senate with Judge Dimke's confirmation, there will be just two, with another nominee voted out of committee just yesterday.

We have confirmed more than 30 circuit and district judges to lifetime appointments and I could not be prouder that, once we confirm Judge Dimke, four of them will serve Washington State. In this Congress, we have sent a clear message that the judicial system belongs to the American people, and it should work for all of the American people, not just the powerful and well-connected.

We are delivering on that commitment by appointing Federal judges who reflect the diversity of our communities and who bring important professional diversity that has been missing from our courts for too long. Just this Congress, we have confirmed to the Federal bench in my State Lauren King, a respected Tribal law expert and Washington State's first Native American Federal judge; Tana Lin, a civil rights lawyer, the first former public defender, and the first Asian-American Federal judge in my home State; David Estudillo, the son of immigrants, a respected State court judge, and a former immigration attorney. And soon, I hope this Senate will vote to confirm Judge Kit Dimke.

Judge Dimke is currently a Federal magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Washington. She knows the current judges and the lay of the land well, having served in that role since

2016, and is a highly respected judicial colleague. Given her current role, she has meaningful experience in both criminal and civil Federal litigation.

Judge Dimke's entire career has been in public service; she previously worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in both the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington. A native of Washington State, she grew up in rural Asotin County as the child of a cattle ranger and lumber mill owner; she knows Eastern Washington. Judge Dimke attended the Running Start program at Walla Walla Community College in high school and went on to obtain her undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University and law degree from Vanderbilt. She is someone with a proven track record who is committed to improving access to the court and will look for ways for the court to work equitably for all participants and for each voice to be heard.

Judge Dimke has already demonstrated that commitment as a magistrate judge, having worked to expand the court's mediation services, improved and diversified the court's indigent defense services, and more quickly resolved one of the top areas of litigation that the Eastern District sees—Social Security disability appeals. She participates in the court's Judicial Institute, volunteering to judge the court's civics competitions for students. And she is actively engaged in the court's external outreach regarding the crisis missing and murdered Native American and Indigenous women, a significant and serious problem facing Tribal communities in Washington State.

Bottom line, Judge Dimke is qualified to become a Federal district court judge and will make an excellent addition to the Federal bench from the Spokane Courthouse. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her today.

#### VOTE ON LOPEZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lopez nomination?

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West

Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 509 Ex.]

#### YEAS—48

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

#### NAYS—25

Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoehn	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Grassley	Sasse	
Hagerty	Scott (FL)	

#### NOT VOTING—27

Barrasso	Fischer	Ossoff
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Portman
Capito	Inhofe	Risch
Cornyn	Johnson	Romney
Cramer	Kaine	Rounds
Daines	Lummis	Sanders
Ernst	McConnell	Shelby
Feinstein	Moran	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DURBIN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomi-

nation of Executive Calendar No. 579, Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Ron Wyden, Tina Smith, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Cory A. Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 510 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin	Durbin	Menendez
Bennet	Gillibrand	Merkley
Blumenthal	Hassan	Murkowski
Booker	Heinrich	Murphy
Brown	Hickenlooper	Murray
Cantwell	Hirono	Padilla
Cardin	Kelly	Peters
Carper	King	Reed
Casey	Klobuchar	Rosen
Collins	Leahy	Schatz
Coons	Lujan	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Shaheen
Duckworth	Markey	Smith

Stabenow  
Tester  
Van Hollen

Warner  
Warnock  
Warren

Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NAYS—25

Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoehn	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Grassley	Sasse	
Hagerty	Scott (FL)	

#### NOT VOTING—28

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Romney
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Kaine	Sanders
Cramer	Lummis	Shelby
Daines	McConnell	Sinema
Ernst	Moran	Toomey
Feinstein	Ossoff	
Fischer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 25.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### NOMINATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about some nominees and how important it is to keep advancing nominees.

A President should be able to have his Ambassadors in place so we can deal with the rest of the world, and we have key people who are still missing from Agencies, many of whom got through committees with strong bipartisan support. Let me start with one of them.

Today, I rise to discuss the importance of the Senate swiftly confirming Alan Davidson, one of President Biden's very important nominees to the Department of Commerce. If confirmed, he will play a crucial role in the coming months and years in making sure every American has access to reliable, affordable internet.

Mr. Davidson has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA. OK. That sounds like a lot of words, but what does it really mean?

As head of the NTIA, Mr. Davidson will oversee the distribution of the \$40 billion for broadband infrastructure funding coming out of our bipartisan infrastructure bill. So his job couldn't be more important as we look at providing high-speed internet to every corner of this country. He will also play an important role in expanding wireless internet networks, promoting fair competition in the digital sector, and ensuring every American has access to affordable and fast internet.